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**On the move for care: Conceptualizing migration for healthcare in Asia**

With the increasing ease of global movements and the development of medical technologies and treatments, mobilities triggered by healthcare needs are fast becoming a strategy to overcome challenges posed by local medical infrastructures worldwide. In the vast multidisciplinary literature on Medical Travel, some forms of mobilities for medical care tend to dominate the discourse, and one example is Medical Tourism. The multiple nomenclatures used to make sense of the phenomenon of travelling and crossing borders indicate the myriad of experiences and regional variations in how the people's mobilities for medical care unfold. Many of these short-distance travel across borders go unnoticed by official numbers and the academic literature on medical tourism spearheaded from a business and tourism perspective. It is only through recent empirical research that the concepts of regional, intraregional, and local journeys for seeking medical care are understood.

Through this paper, I conceptualize the phenomenon of migration for healthcare in the context of South and Southeast Asia as varied from the dominant discourse on medical tourism. The region is widely promoted as a medical tourism hub, with countries like India, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore attracting millions of medical tourists from across the world owing to their advanced medical care economies. And yet the more popular movement continues to be intra-country and intra-regional medical travel, which people undertake primarily because of deficits in healthcare infrastructure in some parts and cultural understandings of specific medical care institutions and therapeutic landscapes as better than others. However, local, and intra-regional movements for healthcare are not dedicated adequate attention in either research or policy. The region has long-established flows of migrant labour and social networks across borders that support many health-seeking journeys. Based on ethnographic research on internal medical travel in India, the paper contextualizes the inter-regional movements for healthcare within the context of labour migration, with a specific focus on low-income migrants. Using archival sources along with contemporary studies on intra-regional medical travel in Asia, I intend to conceptualize migration for healthcare, emphasizing that some health-seeking journeys for non-elective treatments emanate out of distress and a sheer lack of healthcare infrastructure, supported by migrant and social networks in the region. Within the larger literature on Medical Migration, a conceptualization of migration for healthcare could contribute to a local and contextual understanding of the phenomenon.